

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS NOVEMBER 15-31 / PART 2

11/16/2012

5 HOUR ENERGY DEATHS

VO: 25

The federal government and the new york attorney general's office are investigating after the food and drug administration received claims that the drink 5-hour energy may have led to 13 deaths and 33 hospitalizations over the past four years. The popular energy shot - which comes in 2 oz. Packages and packs a powerful caffeine punch, equal to two cups of coffee -- led the way in this new and growing energy drink segment over the past eight years. Now government officials are investigating whether the product, made by michigan-based living essentials, does much more. "if someone is to use multiple cans, now is when we start to see some of the side effects," dr. Sean patrick nord, usc director of the section of toxicology, told abc news. "you're getting astronomical amounts, 30 to 40 cups of coffee."

ONLINE PHARMACIES INVESTIGATION

VO: 29

The nation's two largest shipping companies said they are targets of a criminal probe related to their dealings with online pharmacies at the center of an international crackdown on prescription drug abuse. Fedex corp. And ups inc. Made the disclosures in regulatory filings over the last several weeks. Fedex spokesman patrick fitzgerald confirmed the probe in a prepared statement and a phone interview thursday. The federal investigation of the two shipping giants stems from a blitz against online pharmacies that was launched in 2005. Since then, dozens of arrests have been made, thousands of websites shuttered and tens of millions of dollars and pills seized worldwide as investigators continue to broaden the probe beyond the operators. Last year, google inc. Agreed to pay \$500 million to settle allegations by the u.S. Justice department that it profited from ads for illegal online pharmacies.

STUDY: EARLY PUBERTY IN TEEN GIRLS AND HEART RISK

VO: 23

The results, accepted for publication in the endocrine society's journal of clinical endocrinology & metabolism, support earlier studies that found menstruating before age 12 may contribute to a 23% greater risk of developing heart disease and a 28% higher risk of dying from heart attack or stroke.

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11/19/2012

GAS PRICES DOWN

VO: 24

Gas prices continued their decline, yet at a much slower pace than the double-digit weekly declines seen in october. The national average price for a gallon of regular self-serve gasoline dropped to \$3.43 friday, just 3 cents lower than a week ago, yet 33 cents less expensive than one month ago. For nearly three months the national average has been the highest on record each calendar day, however, that gap has almost disappeared. One month ago the national average exceeded the previous record for that day, also set in 2011, by more than 30 cents. Today the gap is 3 cents (year ago price was \$3.40) And may fall below last year's price before the end of the thanksgiving holiday weekend. And if not for stubbornly high prices in states impacted by superstorm sandy, u.S. Gasoline prices would probably be several cents lower than they were one year ago.

STUDY: MORE TEENS USING MUSCLE ENHANCER

VO: 26

More teens are using muscle enhancing products. That's the finding of a study published today in the medical journal "pediatrics". The study found about one out of three teen boys reported using protein powders to build muscle mass. Six percent admitted to using steroids. And two out of three said they changed their diet to increase muscle tone or size. Among girls, about 21 percent said they used protein powders and shakes. Nearly five percent said they had used steroids. Researchers say the number of teens reporting muscle enhancing behavior is substantially higher than it was in previous years.

CREDIT CARDS-LATE PAYMENTS

VO: 23

Americans cranked up their use of credit cards in the third quarter, racking up more debt than a year ago, while also being less diligent about making payments on time, an analysis of consumer-credit data shows. The average credit card debt per borrower in the u.S. Grew 4.9 percent in the july-to-september period from a year earlier to \$4,996, credit reporting agency transunion said monday. At the same time, the rate of credit card payments at least 90 days overdue hit 0.75 percent, up from 0.71 percent in the third quarter of last year, the firm said. While higher, the late payment rate is rising from historically low levels.

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11/20/12

WA WEATHER

VO: 26

Rain and wind have pounded washington and oregon, flooding streets, toppling large trucks, cutting power to more than 20,000 people, and causing at least one death. Flood warnings have been issued for a handful of western washington rivers, with moderate flooding expected tuesday along the chehalis river in the centralia, wash., area. Nearly 2 inches of rain fell in six hours monday in one seattle neighborhood -- a total that seattle public utilities meteorologist james rufo-hill called "extraordinary." wet weather is expected to continue through the week. But national weather service meteorologist jay neher in seattle said monday night: "the heavy rain is over. We're into showers now." in oregon, a hunter was killed monday morning when a tree crashed on his tent near nehalem as gusts reached more than 70 mph. And a portland police officer was seriously injured when a tree fell during all-terrain vehicle training.

STUDY: UNEMPLOYMENT & HEART ATTACK

VO: 22

People who are unemployed at any time during their life may be at an increased risk of having a heart attack after age 50, a study finds monday. In fact, the chances of a heart attack associated with multiple job losses may be on par with the risks people face from known factors such as smoking, hypertension and diabetes, says the study's lead author, matthew dupre, an assistant professor of medicine at duke university. The researchers note in the paper that they don't know if the increased risk was because of job loss that was involuntary, voluntary or both. "we do know it's not from retirement," says linda george, a professor of sociology at duke and an author on the study. "retirement poses no increased risk of heart attack. I have to believe most job losses are not voluntary when you take out retirement."

HIV TESTING

VO: 23

There's a new push to make testing for the aids virus as common as cholesterol checks. Americans ages 15 to 64 should get an hiv test at least once -- not just people considered at high risk for the virus, an independent panel that sets screening guidelines proposed monday. The draft guidelines from the u.S. Preventive services task force are the latest recommendations that aim to make hiv screening simply a routine part of a check-up, something a doctor can order with as little fuss as a cholesterol test or a mammogram. Since 2006, the centers for disease control and prevention also has pushed for widespread, routine hiv screening. Yet not nearly enough people have heeded that call: Of the more than 1.1 million americans living with hiv, nearly 1 in 5 -- almost 240,000 people -- don't know it. Not only is their own health at risk without treatment, they could unwittingly be spreading the virus to others.

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11/21/2012

THANSGIVING TRAVELERS

MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN- MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 1:35

Millions of americans piled their families into cars, hopped on buses and waited out delays at airports wednesday as they set off on thanksgiving treks that many said required financial sacrifice, help from relatives to come up with airfare and hours searching online for deals. Accepting that the road out of the recession will be long, many said they've become savvier or at least hardier travelers - resilient enough to brave a day-long drive with the kids or a long haul by bus instead of flying. Others adjusted their travel schedules to try to save money, flying on less popular days or to airports that were a bit farther from their destination. The weather, along with the economy, handed setbacks to some. Heavy fog shrouded chicago, causing more than 1,600 delays or cancellations in and out of its two airports and sending ripples around the nation.

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11/22/2012

TOYOTA RECALL

VO: 27

Toyota is recalling about 150,000 tacoma midsize pickups because the spare tyres can fall from beneath the trucks. The recalled trucks from the 2001 to 2004 model years were sold or registered in 20 cold-weather states and washington, dc. It's the latest in a string of safety recalls that have plagued the japanese automaker in recent years. Earlier this month, toyota recalled 2.77 million vehicles around the world, including the prius hybrid and corolla car, for water pump and steering shaft problems. In october, the company recalled 7.43 million vehicles for faulty power-window switches that can cause fires.

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11/23/2012

POSTAL HOLIDAY SHIPPING

VO: 31

Emboldened by rapid growth in e-commerce shipping, the cash-strapped u.S. Postal service is moving aggressively this holiday season to start a premium service for the internet shopper seeking the instant gratification of a store purchase: Same-day package delivery. Teaming up with major retailers, the post office will begin the expedited service in san francisco on dec. 12 at a price similar to its competitors. If things run smoothly, the program will quickly expand next year to other big cities such as boston, chicago and new york. It follows similar efforts by ebay, amazon.Com, and most recently wal-mart stores inc., which charges a \$10 flat rate for same-day delivery. The delivery program, called metro post, seeks to build on the post office's double-digit growth in package volume to help offset steady declines in first-class and standard mail. Operating as a limited experiment for the next year, it is projected to generate between \$10 million and \$50 million in new revenue from deliveries in san francisco alone, according to postal regulatory filings, or up to \$500 million, if expanded to 10 cities.

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11/26/2012

FISCAL CLIFF OBAMA CONGRESS

VO: 32

With some of his holiday shopping done... The president is still looking . For a deal on the looming spending cuts and tax increases. And he may be getting a gift from some republicans...Republicans who signed a pledge never to raise taxes.

DISABLED PARENTS

VO: 23

A new report finds that being a parent still faces many barriers and biases for people with disabilities. The report from the national council on disability, an independent federal agency, is viewed by the disability-rights community as by far the most comprehensive ever on the topic. The report says the u.S. Legal system is not adequately protecting the rights of parents with disabilities, citing child welfare laws in most states which allow courts to determine whether a parent is unfit on the basis of a disability. Child-welfare experts say they share the goals of expanding supports for disabled parents and striving to keep their families together. But they say the removal of children from their parents -- notably in cases of significant intellectual disabilities -- is sometimes necessary even if wrenching.

TEENS AND PLAN B PILL

VO: 23

Doctors should let their teenage patients know about emergency contraception, such as plan b, and write them a prescription for it if they are sexually active, according to a new policy statement from the

american academy of pediatrics. The new guideline is an update to the 2005 policy statement from the american academy of pediatrics (aap), the largest organization of pediatric doctors in the united states. Since 2005, "the data are even more supportive of emergency contraception," said the policy statement's lead author, dr. Cora breuner, a professor of pediatrics and adolescent medicine at the university of washington in Seattle.

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11/27/2012

GRAPEFRUIT MED WARNING

VO: 33

It has long been known that grapefruit juice can pose dangerous - and even deadly - risks when taken along with certain medications. Now, experts warn the list of medications that can result in these interactions is longer than many may have believed. In a new report released monday in the canadian medical association journal, researchers at the university of western ontario said that while 17 drugs were identified in 2008 as having the potential to cause serious problems when taken with grapefruit, this number has now grown to 43. "the frequency of these reactions may be small, but the risks are not worth it, especially for drugs which could cause sudden death," said lead study author david bailey, a professor of pharmacology and one of the first to report the interactions between grapefruit juice and certain medications 20 years ago. "physicians need to know that this affects a number of new drugs and apply this information to their practice and patients."

FDA CLOSE PEANUT BUTTER PLANT

VO: 33

Could the united states be facing an organic peanut butter shortage? The new mexico processor that owns 90% of this year's organic peanut harvest has had its production license revoked by the food and drug administration. Now supermarkets are bracing for a possible shortage. Sunland inc. Voluntarily shut down its peanut butter plant in portales, ariz., on sept. 24 after an outbreak of salmonella that sickened 41 people, mostly children, was linked to peanut butter produced there. It had hoped to reopen its peanut shelling facility this week, but the fda announced monday that it was shutting the company down. An fda audit released earlier this month found salmonella in 28 locations in the plant and examples of improper handling, unclean equipment and positive salmonella tests that the company ignored. The company said in a written statement on nov. 15, "at no time in its 24-year history has sunland inc. Released for distribution any products that it knew to be potentially contaminated with harmful microorganisms."

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11/28/2012

DREAMERS REAX ACHIEVE ACT

VO: 25

Today, republican senators kay bailey hutchison and jon kyl introduced the "achieve act." lorella praeli, director of advocacy & policy at united we dream released the following statement in response: This proposal from some in the republican party - the same party that killed the dream act in 2010, pushed 'self-deportation,' and supported inhumane policies that divide our families and our communities - is a cynical political gesture. This proposal falls well short of the policy changes which further american values of fairness and community and which dreamers and the majority of americans support. Dreamers and their supporters have more power than ever, having won the deferred action policy that was backed by the resounding electoral impact of latino, asian, and immigrant voters at the ballot box on november 6th. We can't take seriously legislation that does nothing to provide a roadmap to citizenship.

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11/29/2012

FISCAL CLIFF-TALKS

VO: 22

Amid increasing anxiety that the white house and top republicans are wasting time as the government slides toward an economy-rattling "fiscal cliff," administration officials are heading to capitol hill for talks with congressional leaders. Treasury secretary tim geithner and senior white house aide rob nabors were to visit separately thursday with the four leaders of the house and senate to discuss how to avert a series of tax increases and spending cuts due to begin in january. Republicans complain that the White House is slow-walking the talks and has yet to provide specifics on how president barack obama would curb the rapid growth of benefit programs like medicare and medicaid. There's been little evident progress in negotiations between the white house and the lead gop negotiator, house speaker john boehner of ohio. Boehner's lieutenants say the white house has been slow to engage. Obama is mounting a public campaign to build support and leverage in the negotiations, appearing at the white house with middle-class taxpayers and launching a campaign on twitter to bolster his position.

ACLU LAW SUIT

VO: 27

A group of civil-liberties and immigrant-rights organizations is expected to file a lawsuit today challenging gov. Jan brewer's executive order denying driver's licenses to young undocumented immigrants approved for federal work permits under president barack obama's deferred-action program. The lawsuit would

mark the first legal challenge against a state for denying driver's licenses to young undocumented immigrants authorized to live and work temporarily in the u.S. Under the program. The lawsuit could affect other states that have also denied driver's licenses to non-citizens protected from deportation under the program, known as deferred action for childhood arrivals, or daca. The lawsuit is expected to be filed by the arizona and national chapters of the american civil liberties union, the mexican american legal defense and educational fund, and the national immigration law center. The same groups are involved in an ongoing civil-rights lawsuit challenging arizona's immigration-enforcement law, senate bill 1070. The organizations have scheduled a news conference for this morning on the tempe campus of arizona state university to announce a "major lawsuit against the state of arizona."

STUDY FINDS SODA RAISES PROSTATE CANCER RISK

VO: 19

Just drinking a soda a day can increase a man's risk of getting prostate cancer by a whopping 40-percent. That's the finding of a study to be published in the american journal of clinical nutrition. In the study, swedish scientists tracked more than eight-thousand men over 15 years. That higher risk was for a later-stage form of the cancer, discovered through symptoms rather than the p-s-a screening test. The study compared those drinking 11 ounces of a soft drink a day -- an ounce shy of the standard can -- with people who didn't drink any sodas. The study also linked heavy consumption of sugary breakfast cereal, rice and pasta to a greater risk of developing a milder form of prostate cancer.

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11/30/2012

CONGRESS IMMIGRATION

VO: 25

A house vote to offer permanent residency to foreign students graduating with advanced degrees in science and math from u.S. Colleges and universities is setting the stage for a bigger battle next year on how to redesign the nation's flawed immigration system. House republicans, with the help of a minority of democrats, are expected to prevail friday in passing the stem jobs act, which would provide up to 55,000 green cards a year to those earning masters and doctoral degrees from u.S. Schools in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. A major point of contention is that the bill offsets the increase in visas for the highly educated by eliminating the diversity immigrant visa program. This year the program made 50,000 visas available to people from countries with traditionally low rates of immigration. About half of those visas go to african nations.

FISCAL CLIFF OBAMA

VO: 31

President Barack Obama is taking his case for avoiding a potentially unsettling "fiscal cliff" to the philadelphia suburbs, employing campaign-style tactics in hopes of mobilizing public support. The trip comes amid signs of impatience in the negotiations between republican leaders and the white house. Obama was scheduled to go to hatfield, pa., to pressure republicans to allow tax increases on the wealthy while extending current bush-era tax rates for households earning \$250,000 or less. White house officials believe friday's trip will build momentum for the president's case, even as republicans describe it as an irritant and an obstacle to fruitful talks. Obama was to tour and speak at the rodon group manufacturing facility, showcasing the company as an example of a business that depends on middle-class consumers during the holiday season. The company manufactures parts for k'nex brands, a construction toy company whose products include tinkertoy, k'nex building sets and angry birds building sets.

GAY MARRIAGE COURT

VO: 26

The running fight over gay marriage is shifting from the ballot box to the supreme court. Three weeks after voters backed same-sex marriage in three states and defeated a ban in a fourth, the justices are meeting friday to decide whether they should deal sooner rather than later with the claim that the constitution gives people the right to marry regardless of sexual orientation. The court also could duck the ultimate question for now and instead focus on a narrower but still important issue: Whether congress can prevent legally married gay americans from receiving federal benefits otherwise available to married couples. The court could announce its plans as soon as friday afternoon. Any cases probably would be argued in march, with a decision expected by the end of june. Gay marriage is legal, or will be soon, in nine states -- connecticut, iowa, maine, maryland, massachusetts, new hampshire, new york, vermont, washington -- and the district of columbia. Federal courts in california have struck down the state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, but that ruling has not taken effect while the issue is being appealed.

LIPITOR WARNING

VO: 21

Ranbaxy pharmaceuticals inc., the company that makes a generic version of the cholesterol-controlling medicine lipitor, has agreed to stop producing the drug because it is unable to explain why some of the tablets are laced with tiny pieces of glass. Millions of americans take lipitor and its generic versions to control their cholesterol, and it has become the fifth most popular medicine in the country. India-based ranbaxy produces one of every three of the generic versions. The federal drug administration overnight said ranbaxy has agreed to stop manufacturing atorvastatin, a generic version of lipitor.

=====END OF REPORT=====